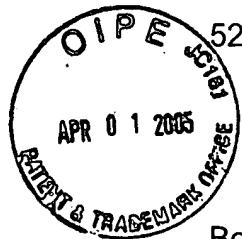


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NIEREMBERGIA PLANT NAMED 'SUNNIPARISOBU'

Botanical/classification:

Nierembergia sp.

Varietal denomination

5 Sunniparisobu

BACKGROUND OF THE VARIETY

The present invention relates to a new and distinct variety of *Nierembergia* plant, which originated from the crossing of *Nierembergia* hybrid varieties 'NB4' as the female parent and 'N10' as the male parent. 'Sunniparisobu' is a vegetative propagated variety.

The female parent 'NB4' (unpatented) used in the crossing to produce 'Sunniparisobu' is a strain of our breeding lines grown at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, having a tufted, bushy shape. The plant height is lower than 'Sunniparisobu'. The flowers are single and large, having strong purple petals.

The male parent 'N10' (unpatented) used in the crossing to produce 'Sunniparisobu' is a strain of our breeding lines grown at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, having erect growth habit. The plant height is about the same as 'Sunniparisobu'. The flowers are single and medium size, having light purple with strong purple towards the center.

In July 1995, the crossing of 'NB4' as the female parent and 'N10' as the male parent was conducted at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, and seedlings were obtained. In October 1996, one seedling was selected in view of its growth habit, flower size and color. That seedling was propagated by cutting, and a trial was carried out by flower potting in the glasshouse and field from May to October 1997, at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan. The botanical characteristics of that plant were then examined, using similar varieties 'Sunnicobu' (U.S. Plant Patent No. 13,934) and 'Montebranco' (unpatented) for comparison. As a result, it was concluded that

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this Nierembergia plant is distinguishable from any other variety, whose existence is known to us, and is uniform and stable in its characteristics. The new variety of Nierembergia plant was named 'Sunniparisobu'.

5 In the following description, the color-coding is in accordance with the Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England (R.H.S.).

SUMMARY OF THE VARIETY

This new variety is unlike any Nierembergia commercially available as evidenced by the following unique combinations of characteristics.

1. Erect growth habit with many branches.
- 10 2. Great profusion of blooms with the entire plant remaining in bloom for a considerable period of time.
3. The flowers are single and large. The petal color is light purple (near R.H.S. 85B) with strong purple (near R.H.S. 86B) towards the center. Yellow eye presents at the bottom of corolla throat.
- 15 4. The plant has a high resistance to rain, cold, heat and disease.

The new variety 'Sunniparisobu' differs from the similar variety 'Sunnicobu' in the following points.

1. The growth habit of 'Sunniparisobu' is erect, while 'Sunnicobu' is tufted.
- 20 2. The plant of 'Sunniparisobu' is larger than that of 'Sunnicobu'.
3. The leaf of 'Sunniparisobu' is larger than that of 'Sunnicobu'.
4. The flower diameter of 'Sunniparisobu' is larger than that of 'Sunnicobu'.
- 25 5. The rain, heat, disease resistance of 'Sunniparisobu' is stronger than that of 'Sunnicobu'.

The new variety 'Sunniparisobu' differs from the similar variety 'Montebranco' in the following points.

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1. The growth habit of 'Sunniparisobu' is erect, while 'Montebranco' is tufted.

2. The plant of 'Sunniparisobu' is larger than that of 'Montebranco'.

3. The leaf of 'Sunniparisobu' is longer than that of 'Montebranco'.

5 4. The flower diameter of 'Sunniparisobu' is larger than that of 'Montebranco'.

5. The petal color of 'Sunniparisobu' is light purple (near R.H.S. 85B) with strong purple (near R.H.S. 86B) towards the center, while 'Montebranco' is yellowish white (near R.H.S. 155D).

10 6. The rain, heat, disease resistance and cold hardiness of 'Sunniparisobu' are stronger than those of 'Montebranco'.

15 This new variety of Nierembergia Plant 'Sunniparisobu' was asexually reproduced by the use of cuttings at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, and homogeneity and stability thereof were confirmed. The instant plant retains its distinctive characteristics and reproduces true to type in successive generations.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

The depicted plants had been reproduced by the use of cuttings and were photographed during September 1998 while growing outdoor field at an age of approximately 10 months at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan.

20 FIG. 1 illustrates a typical plant of the new variety of Nierembergia plant 'Sunniparisobu'.

FIG. 2 illustrates flowers of the new variety of Nierembergia plant 'Sunniparisobu'.

25 The botanical characteristics of the new and distinct variety of Nierembergia plant named 'Sunniparisobu' are as follows, when observed during September at Yokaichi-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan, at an age of approximately 10 months.

Plant:

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Growth habit. - Erect.

Height. - Approximately 32 cm.

Spread. - Approximately 30 cm.

Stem:

5 Thickness. - Approximately 2.0 mm.

Color. - Near R.H.S. 146A (moderate olive green).

Branching. - Abundant.

Pubescence. - Present.

Length of internode. - Approximately 11 mm.

10 Leaf:

Whole shape. - Lanceolate.

Length. - Approximately 38 mm.

Width. - Approximately 4.5 mm.

Color of upper side. - Near R.H.S. 146A (moderate olive green).

15 Pubescence. - Absent.

Attachment angle to stem. - Horizontal.

Petiole. - Absent.

Flower:

Facing direction. - Upward.

20 Type. - Single.

Shape. - Cup-shaped, with five-fissures.

Diameter. - Approximately 37 mm.

Shape of petal tip. - Obtuse. Considerable variation in the shape and size.

Petal margin. - Entire, occasionally sinuate.

25 Length of corolla tube. - Approximately 15 mm.

Color of petal. - Upper side: Near R.H.S. 85B (light purple) with near R.H.S. 86B (strong purple) toward the center. Reverse side: Near R.H.S. 91D (very pale purple).

Eye color. - Near R.H.S. 7B (brilliant greenish yellow).

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Size of eye color. - Approximately 5.6 mm.

Outside color of corolla tube. - Near R.H.S. 85B (light purple).

Flowering habit. - When planted in April in Japan, the blooming period extends from June to October.

5 Pistil:

Number. - 1.

Color of stigma. - Near R.H.S. 144A (Strong yellow green).

Stamen:

Number. - 5.

10 Type. - Epigynoecious.

Color of anther. - Near R.H.S. 12A (vivid yellow).

Hardiness:

Winter. - USDA Hardiness Zone 8-12 (grown as perennial).

Rain. - No serious damage has been observed during the rainy season (June-July) in Japan. However, heavy rain may damage flower petals due to their thinness, which is a common phenomenon in the Nierembergia genus.

15 Heat. - The plant grows well at temperatures up to at least 35°C.

Resistance:

Disease. - No serious damage by powdery mildew or root rot has been 20 observed.

Insect. - Good. Under the dry condition, may have some damage by the spider mite.

This new variety of Nierembergia plant 'Sunniparisobu' is most suitable for flower bedding and potting.